

# SENATE, No. 348

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator BOB SMITH**

**District 17 (Middlesex and Somerset)**

### **SYNOPSIS**

Requires each solid waste management district to develop strategy in solid waste management plan to reduce food waste.

### **CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1    **AN ACT** concerning the reduction of food waste and supplementing  
2       P.L.1970, c.39 (C.13:1E-1 et seq.).

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4       **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
5 *of New Jersey:*

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7       1.   a.   No later than two years after the effective date of this  
8       section, each solid waste management district in the State shall  
9       develop and implement a strategy for reducing, by the year 2030,  
10      the amount of food waste generated annually in the district by at  
11      least 50 percent of the amount which is generated in the year this  
12      section takes effect. The strategy shall be adopted as an amendment  
13      to the district solid waste management plan required pursuant to the  
14      “Solid Waste Management Act,” P.L.1970, c.39 (C.13:1E-1 et seq.)  
15      and subject to the approval of the department.

16      b.   No later than 180 days after the effective date of this section,  
17      the department shall develop, and publish on its Internet website, a  
18      list of measures solid waste management districts can take in order  
19      to achieve the food waste reduction requirement established in  
20      subsection a. of this section. Such measures shall include, but need  
21      not be limited to, measures to increase the donation of surplus  
22      edible food, the source separation and recycling of food waste,  
23      composting and anaerobic digestion of food waste, and public  
24      awareness campaigns.

25      c.   As used in this section, “food waste” means food processing  
26      waste, food processing residue generated from processing and  
27      packaging operations, overripe or spoiled produce, trimmings from  
28      food, food product over-runs, soiled and unrecyclable paper, and  
29      used cooking fats, oil, and grease.

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31      2.   This act shall take effect immediately.

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#### STATEMENT

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36      This bill would require each county to develop, as part of its  
37      district solid waste management plan, a strategy to reduce food  
38      waste in the district.

39      According to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA),  
40      approximately 40 percent of the United States food supply goes  
41      uneaten each year due to losses at the farm, retail, and consumer  
42      levels. The vast majority of this food waste ends up in landfills, where  
43      it takes up valuable landfill space and emits methane, a potent  
44      greenhouse gas contributing to climate change. At the same time, over  
45      14 percent of United States households struggle to put enough food on  
46      the table, leaving 49 million Americans, including 16 million children,  
47      at risk of going hungry. It is estimated that the food saved by reducing

1 losses by just 15 percent could feed more than 25 million Americans  
2 each year.

3 In 2015, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the USDA  
4 announced a national goal of reducing food waste by 50 percent by the  
5 year 2030. In 2017, the New Jersey State Legislature passed P.L.2017,  
6 c.136 (C.13:1E-226), which established a similar goal for the State.  
7 To meet that ambitious goal, this bill would require each solid waste  
8 management district in the State (i.e., each county and the Hackensack  
9 Meadowlands District) to develop and implement a strategy for  
10 reducing, by the year 2030, the amount of food waste generated  
11 annually in the district by at least 50 percent of the amount which is  
12 generated in the year this section takes effect. The strategy would  
13 be adopted as an amendment to each district's solid waste  
14 management plan and subject to the approval of the department.

15 The bill would require the Department of Environmental  
16 protection to develop, and publish on its Internet website, a list of  
17 measures solid waste management districts can take in order to  
18 achieve the food waste reduction requirement established in the bill.  
19 These measures would include actions to prevent food waste and  
20 increase the donation of surplus edible food, the source separation  
21 and recycling of food waste, composting and anaerobic digestion of  
22 food waste, and public awareness campaigns.